

RECOGNIZING LYNDON HUGHES-JENNETT

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as a Congressional UK Caucus co-chair, I rise today along with my colleagues and fellow co-chairs, Congressmen GABE AMO, JIM HIMES, and DAVID ROUZER, to recognize Lyndon Hughes-Jennett.

It is with great respect and admiration that I recognize the outstanding service of Lyndon Hughes-Jennett, who has served as Northern Ireland Attaché at the British Embassy in Washington since 2021. Throughout his tenure, Mr. Hughes-Jennett has played a vital role in strengthening the relationship between the United States and Northern Ireland and in advancing engagement among partners in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Ireland.

In his role, Mr. Hughes-Jennett worked tirelessly to foster constructive dialogue with Members of Congress, U.S. officials, and a wide range of stakeholders. He was instrumental in supporting visiting delegations from Northern Ireland, facilitating meaningful exchanges that deepened understanding of Northern Ireland's political, economic, and cultural landscape. His efforts helped ensure that Northern Ireland's priorities were well represented and thoughtfully conveyed to audiences across the United States.

Mr. Hughes-Jennett's service was further exemplified by his involvement in high level engagements, including accompanying President Joe Biden during his visit to Northern Ireland for the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Belfast-Good Friday Agreement. Throughout his time in Washington, he demonstrated professionalism, sound judgment, and a steadfast commitment to partnership, serving as a trusted interlocutor and a bridge among communities and nations.

As Mr. Hughes-Jennett concludes his service at the British Embassy, we extend our sincere appreciation for his dedication and contributions. His work has had a lasting and positive impact on U.S.-Northern Ireland relations, and we wish him every success in his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING ANGEL COVA ROJAS

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Angel Cova Rojas for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Angel has overcome many challenges along his journey to success, demonstrating perseverance at every step. Students who strive to make the most of their education, like Angel, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Angel's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada West High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Angel Cova Rojas on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

HONORING THE 2026 OHIO MILITARY HALL OF FAME FOR VALOR INDUCTEES

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 2026 Ohio Military Hall of Fame for Valor inductees. The Ohio Military Hall of Fame for Valor will hold a ceremony at the Statehouse in Columbus on Friday, May 1, 2026 to mark the induction of its 2026 class. Selection for the Hall of Fame is a high honor that has been accorded to fewer than 550 Ohioans since 2000. To be considered for induction, individuals must have been decorated for heroic action in a combat situation.

I am honored to commend to the U.S. House of Representatives and include in the RECORD this year's twenty inductees:

Sergeant First Class Sammy L. Davis, recipient of the Medal of Honor, Army veteran of the Vietnam War.

Specialist Fourth Class Richard H. Adler, recipient of the Silver Star, Army veteran of the Vietnam War.

Pharmacist's Mate Third Class John M. Brown (posthumously), recipient of the Silver Star, Navy Reserve veteran of World War II.

Sergeant Meredith L. Barnett (posthumously), recipient of the Silver Star, Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War.

Major Roderick J. MacEachen (posthumously), recipient of the Silver Star, Army veteran of World War II.

Private Aurelio J. Marinelli (posthumously), recipient of the Silver Star, Army veteran of World War II.

Technical Sergeant Harley E. Thomas (posthumously), recipient of the Silver Star, Army veteran of World War II.

Colonel Ralph J. "Doc" Watson (posthumously), recipient of the Silver Star, Army Air Corps veteran of World War II.

Sergeant John T. Biniger, recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross, Army veteran of the Vietnam War.

Sergeant Tyler S. Gangwer, recipient of the Bronze Star with "V" Device, Army veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Corporal Edwin C. Martin (posthumously), recipient of the Bronze Star with "V" Device, Army veteran of the Korean War.

Sergeant George P. Mizik (posthumously), recipient of the Bronze Star with "V" Device, Marine Corps Reserve veteran of World War II.

Master Sergeant Justin A. Orr, recipient of the Bronze Star with "V" Device, Army veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Sergeant Paul H. Phillabaum, recipient of the Bronze Star with "V" Device, Army veteran of the Vietnam War.

Master Chief Petty Officer Michael J. Warden, recipient of the Bronze Star with "V" Device, Navy veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Specialist Fourth Class John S. Webb, recipient of the Bronze Star with "V" Device, Army veteran of the Vietnam War.

Master Sergeant David M. White, recipient of the Bronze Star with "V" Device, Army veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Sergeant First Class Larry J. Davidson, recipient of the Army Commendation Medal

with "V" Device, Army veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Senior Chief Special Warfare Operator Daniel M. Gonska, recipient of the Joint Services Commendation Medal with "V" Device, Navy veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Captain Ronald H. Leonard, recipient of the Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device, Army veteran of the Vietnam War.

HONORING ALEXANDRA KARABATSOS

HON. LORI TRAHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mrs. TRAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Alexandra Karabatsos for her exceptional service to my office and to the constituents of Massachusetts' 3rd Congressional District.

Alex has been an indispensable member of my team since my first campaign for Congress in 2018, and she has served with distinction since day one of my tenure in office. Over the years, she has taken on increasing responsibility across a number of roles, including Legislative Correspondent, Legislative Assistant, Senior Legislative Assistant, and ultimately, Legislative Director.

A proud native of Lowell, Massachusetts, Alex brought a deep understanding of and commitment to our district in every aspect of her work. Her connection to the community ensured that the voices of 3rd District residents are always at the forefront of our legislative priorities.

As Legislative Director, Alex has led our legislative team with integrity, vision, and an unwavering dedication to delivering results. She has overseen a broad policy portfolio, with particular expertise in health care, where she has played a central role in advancing meaningful, bipartisan solutions.

Among her many accomplishments, Alex was instrumental in passage of landmark legislation. Notably, she helped lead the effort to pass the Medication Access and Training Expansion (MATE) Act, bipartisan legislation to standardize substance use disorder training for providers, and the Accelerating Kids' Access to Care Act, a significant bipartisan achievement that will improve access to timely, lifesaving care for children across the country.

In addition to this work, Alex has been a driving force behind our response to the Steward Health Care crisis, the addiction epidemic, and the mental health crisis facing our children and young adults. Her ability to navigate complex policy challenges and build consensus has made her an invaluable leader both within my office and among colleagues across Capitol Hill.

Beyond her policy expertise, Alex has been a mentor to junior staff, a thoughtful advisor, and a cornerstone of our office culture. Her leadership has strengthened our team and elevated our ability to serve the people of Massachusetts' 3rd District.

It has been a joy to watch Alex grow as a leader. Her intelligence, work ethic, humor, and deep commitment to public service have left a lasting mark on my office and on the communities we serve.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Alexandra Karabatsos for her outstanding service and wishing her all the best in her next chapter.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
MR. JASON DRAGON

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career and dedicated service of Mr. Jason P. Dragon as he retires after 27 years in law enforcement.

Mr. Dragon currently serves as the Resident Agent in Charge for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Office of Professional Responsibility in Houston, Texas, where he has led critical efforts overseeing internal investigations across a six-state region.

Throughout his tenure, he has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to integrity, accountability, and the rule of law.

Over the course of his career, Mr. Dragon has taken on some of the most complex and demanding assignments in federal law enforcement.

As a supervisory special agent with Homeland Security Investigations in Houston, he led efforts targeting violent crime and transnational gang activity—work that earned recognition from both the Houston Police Department and HSI leadership for outstanding investigative achievement.

He also served our Nation abroad through the Visa Security Program, helping prevent criminals and suspected terrorists from entering the United States, and led rapid response efforts supporting ICE personnel and infrastructure following natural disasters.

Earlier in his career, Mr. Dragon served at HSI Headquarters here in Washington, D.C., including as a Congressional Fellow in my office, where he played a key role in the passage of the Jaime Zapata Border Enforcement Security Task Force Act, strengthening our Nation's border security framework.

From his early work combating child exploitation in Connecticut to his service as a Border Patrol agent and Connecticut State Trooper, Mr. Dragon's career reflects a lifelong commitment to protecting others and upholding justice.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 28th District of Texas, I thank Mr. Dragon for his decades of service and wish him the very best in his well-earned retirement.

HONORING THE HOUCHIN COMMUNITY BLOOD BANK ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. VINCE FONG

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Houchin Community Blood Bank as they celebrate their 75th Anniversary. For the past 75 years, Houchin Community Blood Bank has been a lifeline connecting donors and patients in need across all of Kern Coun-

ty's hospitals, and in doing so, became a staple of our local community. Since its creation, Houchin's mission has been simple: "protect the local blood supply so patients in Kern County are not left waiting." Today, we honor their hard work, sacrifice, and constant devotion to helping others, as we join them in celebration.

Until Houchin's founding in 1951, Kern County had no community blood bank. Blood had to be transported from Los Angeles or San Francisco and would take at least a day to arrive; a time frame far too slow for the residents of Kern County whose lives were on the line. In light of these difficulties, members of the Kern County Medical Society asked their fellow member Elmer Houchin to help secure them a permanent site to build on. Through the Houchin Foundation, Elmer donated land on G Street in downtown Bakersfield as well as an endowment in memory of his mother, Sarah Alice Houchin. The blood bank's doors opened in April of 1951, and within a year the bank's original name "Kern Community Blood Bank" was changed to "Houchin Community Blood Bank" in honor of the family who made its opening possible.

Houchin currently works with local hospitals such as Bakersfield Memorial, Kern Medical, and Bakersfield Heart Hospital, as well as organizations such as the Comprehensive Blood and Cancer Center and Dignity Health Group. Their organization shares resources across all 50 states and is affiliated with some of the Nation's most trusted blood supply organizations. They are currently working tirelessly on key projects like the Pre-Hospital Transfusion Initiative, and a Capital Campaign to raise funds and awareness.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in commending Jonathan Bautista, Houchin's CEO, and his staff at Houchin for their support for the people of Kern County. It is thanks to them that the lives of residents are saved every day. I join all those gathered here in wishing them continued success and look forward to seeing their continued part in Kern County's future as a leader among its medical professionals.

HONORING CHRIS HARTLEY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Chris Hartley, in recognition of his more than twenty-seven years of extraordinary service for our Napa Valley and California law enforcement communities.

Chris Hartley was born in October 1960 and grew up in the Napa Valley. He graduated from Napa High School in 1979. He then served in the United States Marine Corps as an Amphibious Assault Vehicle Crewman, Infantryman, and Reconnaissance Marine. He rose to the rank of Gunnery Sergeant and served for over 20 years. During his time in the Marine Corps, Chief Hartley served during the Beirut Bombing and Grenada, and he participated in Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm. While in the military, Chief Hartley attended the USMC Advanced Non-Commissioned Officer Academy and com-

pleted courses in Marine Corps Warfighting, Firearms Instructor, Rappel Master, Small Boat Operations Instructor, and Parachute Jump School. Chief Hartley left the Marine Corps in 1999 and subsequently attended Mira Costa and Palomar Junior Colleges and then went on to study at Colorado State University and the University of Virginia. Chief Hartley is also a graduate of Class 263 of the prestigious Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) National Academy.

After serving his country in the United States Marine Corps, Chief Hartley came back to the Napa Valley to work in law enforcement. In 1999, Chief Hartley began his position as a police officer with the City of St. Helena. During his time at the St. Helena Police Department, he served as a Motorcycle Officer, Range and Tactics Instructor, Corporal, Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Chief. He became the Chief of Police in 2019. As Chief, he guided our community through two major fires, the first public safety power shutoffs, the Covid-19 Pandemic, and major social justice reforms.

Chief Hartley's contributions have been widely recognized across our law enforcement community, most prominently when St. Helena's Police Department was awarded the Distinguished Silver Medal for Excellence in Policy Management by the risk assessment agency, Lexipol. Chief Hartley is widely respected among peace officers across California and is loved by the residents of St. Helena.

Chief Hartley is dedicated to helping our Napa Valley community and has served as a member of the St. Helena Rotary Club, Napa Elks, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the A-Z Foundation for Disabled Veterans. He has continued to serve St. Helena through his support of the UpValley Family Center, Napa Emergency Women's Shelter, We Care Animal Rescue, Monarch Education Center of Napa Valley, and Napa Victim Witness Services. Chief Hartley trains and supports law enforcement in the Napa Valley and across California through his work as an instructor with the Napa Valley College Police Academy, as chairman of the board for Napa County Special Investigations, and as a member of the California Police Chiefs Association, FBI National Academy, California Gangs Association, and the California Narcotics Association.

Chief Hartley married his wife Shelley Hartley in August 1980. They are blessed with three children named Christina, Casandra, and James, along with 8 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Chris Hartley has dedicated his life to protecting St. Helena, California, and the United States of America. He has transformed the lives of those around him through his service and mentorship to others. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

RECOGNIZING SIENNA KITTLES

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 27, 2026

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sienna Kittles for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Sienna has overcome many challenges along her journey to success, demonstrating